

LA SALLE COLLEGE
Basketball
1949-50

PRESS AND RADIO
INFORMATION

OUR COVER

"Long" Larry Foust, 6:09 LaSalle centerman, is shown having just passed the ball off to Jimmy Phelan (10) and backs out of the way as Frank Comerford (behind Phelan), Dick Adair (6) and Penn's Greer Heindel watch the action, during LaSalle's 64-44 conquest of the Quakers.

Photo: Courtesy of the PHILADELPHIA EVENING BULLETIN

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**1949 - 1950
*Basketball Season***

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Coach KENNETH D. LOEFFLER

Ken Loeffler (pronounced "Leffler"), who will be starting his first year as mentor of the LaSalle College basketball destinies this season, is a veteran of seventeen years' coaching in college and professional ranks.

Regarded as one of the nation's foremost court strategists, Loeffler succeeds Charles J. McGlone, who resigned at the end of the 1948-49 season to enter private business. Under McGlone, LaSalle teams won 61 games while dropping only 17.

The new Explorer pilot coached the Providence Steamrollers of the Basketball Association of America last season, but resigned in order to return to collegiate competition. In the two preceding years, he guided the St. Louis Bombers to two BAA playoffs.

A native of Beaver Falls, Pa., Ken graduated from Penn State in 1924 and began coaching at Geneva College in his home town in 1928. He remained there until 1934, the same year he won a degree in law at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1935, Loeffler went to Yale for a seven-year hitch as basketball coach and assistant football coach, leaving in 1942 to accept a commission in the Army Air Force. When Ken left the AAF as a major in 1945, he spent one year at the University of Denver and, when the BAA was organized, became the first coach taken into the new league.



Athletic Director

JAMES J. HENRY

Much of the credit for LaSalle's present prominence in the world of sports can be attributed to James J. Henry, the Explorers' Athletic Director.

Jim came to LaSalle in 1930, following his graduation from Villanova where he was an honorable mention All-American end.

Originally line coach for the football team, and basketball coach, he was named Athletic Director in 1935.

Under Jim, LaSalle's athletic program has expanded both inter-collegiately and intra-murally, with over 1200 students participating in the softball, touch football, basketball, swimming, bowling, and other leagues. Henry was instrumental in adding swimming, golf, tennis, baseball, crew and soccer to the list of organized Explorer sports. Football is the only activity that has been discontinued, due mainly to lack of facilities.

Just to round out a very busy schedule, Jim teaches Finance.

Trainer

HARRY E. BRUNER

Harry, a personal student of Frank Wiechec, former Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Temple University, and at present head trainer for the Philadelphia National League Baseball Club, came direct to LaSalle following his discharge from the Navy as a Mo.M.M. 2/c in 1947.

In addition to keeping the basketball squad in trim, Harry also has the responsibility of repairing injured athletes from the swimming, soccer, baseball, tennis, track, crew, cross-country and golf teams.

A specialist in prevention, Bruner has been singularly successful in keeping injuries to a minimum among Explorer competitors during his two years at LaSalle.



SCHEDULE 1949-50

DECEMBER

Wed.	7	Millersville State Teachers	Home
Sat.	10	DePaul	Chicago Stadium
Wed.	14	Loyola of Baltimore	Home
Sat.	17	Temple	Convention Hall
Mon.	26	U.C.L.A.	Convention Hall
Thu.	29	San Francisco	Convention Hall

JANUARY

Mon.	2	Western Kentucky	Convention Hall
Sat.	7	Bowling Green	Convention Hall
Wed.	11	Bloomsburg State Teachers	Home
Sat.	14	North Carolina State	Raleigh
Wed.	18	Albright	Home
Sat.	21	St. Joseph's	Convention Hall
Sat.	28	Temple	Convention Hall

FEBRUARY

Sat.	4	St. Joseph's	Convention Hall
Mon.	6	Baldwin-Wallace	Cleveland Arena
Sat.	11	Toledo	Convention Hall
Wed.	15	Loyola	Baltimore
Sat.	18	Muhlenberg	Allentown, Pa.
Tue.	21	Manhattan	Madison Square Garden
Sat.	25	Cincinnati	Convention Hall

MARCH

Wed.	1	Gettysburg	Gettysburg
Mon.	6	Boston College	Boston Gardens
Sat.	11	Muhlenberg	Home

TEAM ROSTER

NO.	NAME	YR.	AGE	WT.	HT.	PREP SCHOOL
3	Fanning, Matt	Jr.	22	170	5'9"	St. Joseph's
4	Jones, Newt	Soph.	19	175	6'2"	Northeast
5	Donnelly, Chas.	Soph.	19	160	5'11"	LaSalle H. S.
6	Grauer, John	Soph.	19	185	6'7"	LaSalle H. S.
8	McCann, Bob	Sr.	23	155	5'8"	Bartram
9	Colman, Walt	Sr.	21	170	6'	N. Catholic
10	Phelan, Jimmy	Jr.	20	175	6'	LaSalle H. S.
11	McMenamin, Fran	Soph.	19	180	5'11"	Roman Catholic
12	Haggerty, Jack	Jr.	23	180	6'	Ben Franklin
14	Foust, Larry	Sr.	21	240	6'9"	S. Catholic
15	Gillespie, John	Jr.	20	188	6'4"	St. Joseph's
16	Tomkins, Chas.	Sr.	25	175	6'1"	West Phila.
17	Comerford, Frank	Sr.	23	170	6'1"	W. Catholic
19	Gallagher, Wm.	Sr.	26	185	6'2"	St. Thos. More

Colors: BLUE AND GOLD

Student Body: 1850

Nickname: "EXPLORERS"

Manager: JOHN P. MAGUIRE '50

Conducted by the BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

FOUNDED—1863

Uniforms: NAVY BLUE, GOLD LETTERS FOR AWAY GAMES

GOLD WITH BLUE LETTERS FOR HOME GAMES

LAST YEAR'S TEAM RECORD

	LSC	OPP.
Lock Haven State Teachers	67	38
Loyola College	78	57
Brigham Young	76	54
Millersville State Teachers	65	52
Albright	58	45
Georgia Tech	67	59
Louisville	76	71
San Francisco	45	51
Muhlenberg	73	56
Holy Cross	63	61
Loyola College	85	61
Toledo	62	51
Baldwin Wallace	49	52
Temple	36	54
Canisius	59	43
Muhlenberg	57	55
St. Joseph's	78	41
Bowling Green	45	51
Cincinnati	42	36
Manhattan	76	46
Pennsylvania	64	44
Georgetown	62	45
Lafayette	61	37
Manhattan	53	62
North Carolina State	56	60
Gettysburg	93	60
*Cincinnati	49	50
*William and Mary	63	51
	1758	1449

* Cincinnati Invitation Tournament games
Won 21—Lost 7

OUTLOOK

WITH a "now or never" attitude, a veteran LaSalle College squad looks forward to meeting the toughest teams in the country this year with quiet optimism and a determination to top all previous efforts.

For three years the Explorer dribblers have hovered just off the limelight of basketball immortality as they posted season records of 20-6 in their freshman year, 20-4 as sophomores, and 21-7 last year, but still have been unable to come up with a champion's laurels, even though three of their victims were national tourney winners (Utah, N.I.T.; Holy Cross, N.C.A.A., and Louisville, N.A.I.B.).

On the credit side of the ledger, newly-appointed coach Ken Loeffler has ten lettermen and four excellent sophomores to work with this year—a squad that has demonstrated its basketball "savvy" on numerous occasions.

But the debits tend to offset any undue enthusiasm. First the loss of 6:05 Dick Adair to professional baseball, and ex-captain Joe Greenberg by graduation, eliminates some much-needed height. Second, it is questionable whether or not veteran players can absorb, in the short time Loeffler has been working with them, an entirely new system after being accustomed to a different style of play. Third, the schedule is ripe with this country's top-notch teams.

Loeffler has installed the same "five man screen" type of offense at LaSalle he used so effectively to pilot the St. Louis Bombers to western division honors in the Basketball Association of America. Under this system, all five men may move in and out of pivot position, which is a radical change from the past three years when Larry Foust, 6:09 Explorer centerman, was sole inhabitant of the keyhole slot.

Foust, a three-time nominee to All-

City and All-State honors, plus the National Association of College Coaches All-Eastern selection last year, is the first Philadelphia college player to pass the 1000 mark in intercollegiate competition (his career total is now 1109) and also has the distinction of holding the Philadelphia Convention Hall single game record of 39 points (versus St. Joseph's College, February 5, 1949).

Although he won't be able to spend as much time on the pivot as he did previously, nevertheless, rival coaches can't double or triple-team him as they invariably did.

What the new system surely will do is reactivate the latent offensive ability of such time-tested veterans, as Frank Comerford, Bill Gallagher, Jimmy Phelan, John Gillespie, Charley Tomkins, Walt Colman, Bob McCann, Matt Fanning and Jack Haggerty. They will now be called upon to drive under more often, as well as shoot from the outside—two feats they all are very capable of performing.

LaSalle fans are also looking for great things from a quartet of sophomores now on the varsity for the first time. In 6:07 John Grauer, and dynamic Charley Donnelly, Loeffler has two players who sparked LaSalle High School to a city championship in 1948. Although Grauer lacks polish, he still has sufficient aggressiveness and ability to spell Larry Foust. Donnelly, a smart little playmaker, is unusually effective on offense or defense.

Add to that Newt Jones, Philadelphia Public League scoring champion in 1948, and the Philadelphia Catholic League's top point-getter, Franny McMenamin, and one can realize the potential punch these sophs carry.

However, the question still remains to be answered—"Does Loeffler have enough time to adequately install his system before LaSalle meets the country's powerhouses?"

E. FRANCIS COMERFORD

No. 17—Guard

Senior

6'1"



His teammates say Frank "gets set while still running," which is their way of describing how quickly he gets off those devastating long shots of his.

Comerford stands at 6:01, and yet is short enough to be both fast and shifty. His drives underneath usually result in both a basket and a foul conversion.

Frank was leading scorer while on the freshman team, and has averaged 8 points per game. The Philadelphia Basketball Writers Association named him "Player of the Week" on January 3, 1949 for his sterling play against San Francisco and Louisville, last season.

WALTER L. COLMAN

No. 9—Guard

Senior

6'



Walt Colman, a dependable reserve, has always been like money in the bank—one can count on him in any emergency.

Send in Colman, and one of two things quickly develops. Either the opposition's high scorer is immediately checked, or else the weak spot in the enemy defense is pierced for a couple of lightning-like thrusts. A good team player, Walt is never out of position, either defensively or offensively. He was All-Catholic in 1945 and 1946 while playing for North Catholic High School.

CHARLES F. DONNELLY

No. 5—Forward

Sophomore

5'11"



A newcomer to the squad this year, Buddy promises to have a great future with the Explorers. An All-Catholic selection in his sophomore year while playing for LaSalle High, Donnelly sparked the Little Explorers to two city championships during his three years on coach Charley O'Brien's squad.

A playmaker, Buddy can score from outside or under when the opposition's defense bottles up his teammates.

MATTHEW A. FANNING

No. 3—Guard

Junior

5'9"



Matt, a former All-Catholic nominee from St. Joseph's Prep, is a capable understudy who has had much valuable service experience to supplement his single year on the varsity.

Fanning surprised everyone with his stamina. He is an exceptionally hard worker and keeps driving all the time he is in there. He can run the full 40 minutes at top speed, and has marvelous control of the ball. He is also a good outside shot.



LA SALLE'S EIGHTY-SIX YEAR HISTORY

Undoubtedly, the spirit of LaSalle is best summed up in the school's service flag with over 700 silver stars out of a possible 1200 living alumni, and 31 gold stars in which men of all religious faiths are represented.

Although a Roman Catholic institution, the teaching order at LaSalle—the Christian Brothers—has never faltered from the ideals of its founder, St. John Baptiste de LaSalle, after whom the college derives its name.

St. LaSalle is often described as the "Father of Modern Education" because it was he who first introduced the system of one teacher instructing a number of students of the same age, all with the same textbooks, to supplant the private tutor method which, by its very nature, limited education to the wealthy.

Hence, when LaSalle was first founded in Philadelphia, it was the aim of the Brothers to make a college education available to sons of families with modest means. A definite need in that direction existed then and does today. The foundation and subsequent expansion of LaSalle on two different occasions is testimony on how well the Brothers and their educational philosophy have been accepted by the community.



S HIGH IN DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS

College and faculty buildings at LaSalle's present location, Olney Avenue at 20th Street, were completed in June of 1929. Ground was broken for the college gymnasium and preparatory school in May, 1927, and they were completed during the first semester of the school year, 1929-30.

McCarthy Stadium was completed in September, 1937, and in September of 1940, McShaine Hall was dedicated. In August, 1947, Leonard Hall, student union building, was opened. Benilde Hall, the newest student classroom building on the campus, was dedicated in September of 1948.

This building program has permitted the enrollment to increase from a pre-war high of 425 to the present total of 1850. In addition to the day school, the Evening Division boasts of a matriculation of 750.

During World War II, without any program of military assistance, the student body at LaSalle dropped to an all-time low of 58. Only by the most demanding sacrifices were the Christian Brothers able to keep open the doors of LaSalle College. However, this was accomplished, and, as a direct result, over 2500 young men are pursuing a college education here today.

LAWRENCE M. FOUST

No. 14—Center

Senior

6'9"



Twenty-one year old Larry Foust, 6:09 centerman, is playing his fourth and final year for the Explorers, insofar as he entered LaSalle during the immediate post-war period when the NCAA waived the non-first year man ruling.

He prepped at South Catholic High School in Philadelphia, where his work sparked the Pirates to a City Championship and won him the coveted All-Catholic and All-Scholastic (best in Catholic, public and private schools) for the Philadelphia area in 1945 and again in 1946. He also was a quarter-miler on the championship South Catholic mile relay team.

Larry was the first Philadelphia area college player to pass the 1000 mark in total scoring, and now has 1109 points—453, junior year; 401, sophomore year, and 255, freshman year.

He also broke the Philadelphia Convention Hall record of 38 points, formerly held by George Senesky of St. Joseph's College (now with the Philadelphia Warriors) when he poured in 39 against St. Joseph's last season.

Last year, Larry was named to the All-Eastern team selected by the National College Coaches Association, and was also an honorable mention All-American.

He has been on the Philadelphia All-City team for his three college years, and in his sophomore and junior years, was on the AP All-State team.

WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER
No. 19—Forward
Senior
6'2"



Although not unusually tall, Inky is a valuable man under either board because of the unusual spring in his legs when he gets off the floor.

A prolific interceptor of enemy passes, he is the ideal team player, and is among the squad leaders in assists.

He has been showing a little more scoring punch under the new system installed by Ken Loeffler.

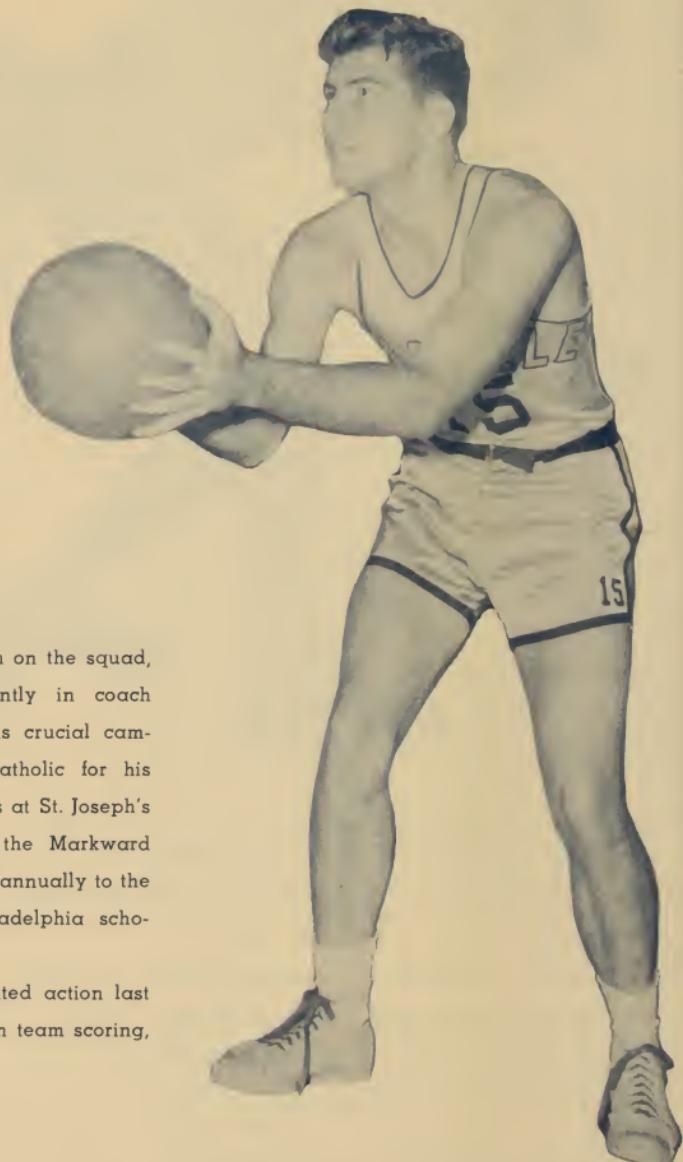
Inky was All-Catholic at St. Thomas More High School, and SPORTING NEWS named him to their honorable "All-American" team last year.

JOHN M. GILLESPIE

No. 15—Forward

Junior

6'4"



The third tallest man on the squad, John figures prominently in coach Loeffler's plans for this crucial campaign. He was All-Catholic for his junior and senior years at St. Joseph's Prep, and also won the Markward Award, which is given annually to the most outstanding Philadelphia scholastic court star.

In spite of very limited action last year, John was ninth in team scoring, with 67 points.

JOHN J. GRAUER

No. 6—Center

Sophomore

6'7"



Although John has all of the natural assets required of a great basketball player, he still needs additional experience before a starter's berth will be given him.

Undoubtedly, coach Ken Loeffler will use him as much as possible this year with an eye to having the rough edges knocked off for future campaigns.

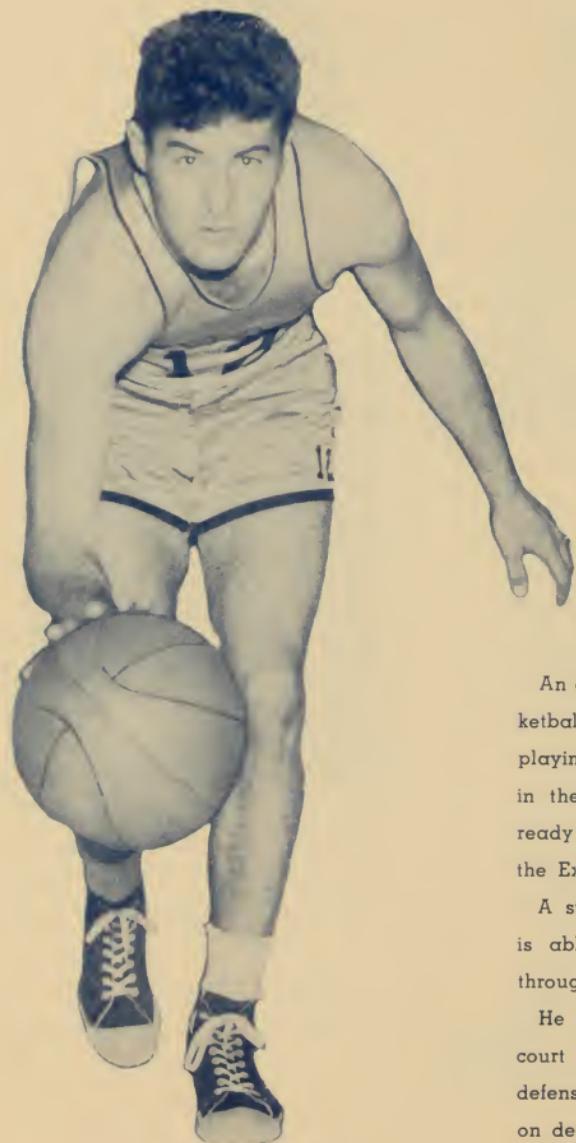
John was a teammate of Buddy Donnelly's on the 1948 LaSalle High city championship five, and is an exceptionally fine ball handler for such a tall man.

JOHN M. HAGGERTY

No. 12—Forward

Junior

6'



An army veteran who takes his basketball very seriously, Jack has been playing all summer on outdoor courts in the Philadelphia area just to be ready for this toughest of schedules the Explorers have ever faced.

A strong, fast, aggressive man, he is able to compete at high speed throughout the game.

He specializes in breaking down court before opponents can set up defenses. He is exceptionally strong on defense.

J. NEWTON JONES

No. 4—Forward

Sophomore

6'2"



Newt has demonstrated how he won the Philadelphia Public League scoring championship while at Northeast High in his inspirational play as a freshman last year, and in pre-season scrimmages with the varsity this year.

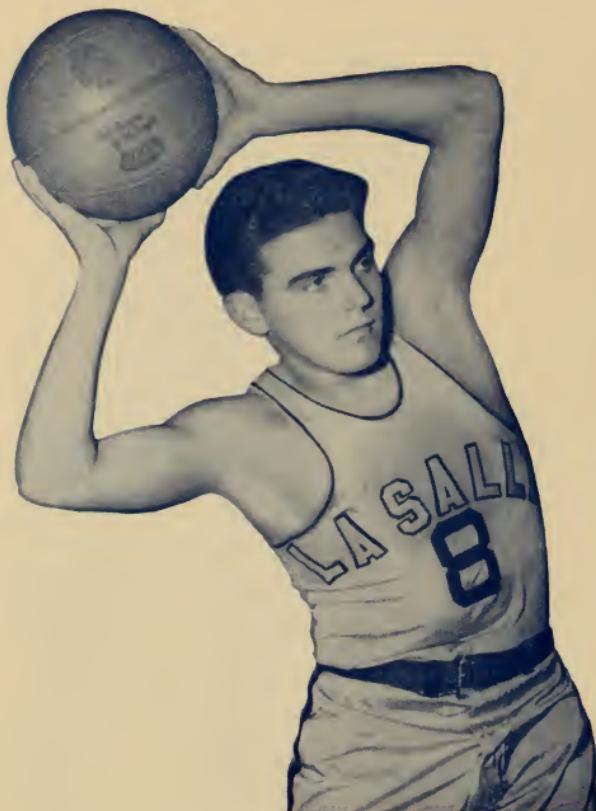
A forceful, driving player, he is a good outside shot and unstoppable underneath. His fine faking gets him the step advantage he uses so well to go under for a "duck."

ROBERT X. McCANN

No. 8—Guard

Senior

5'8"



Dubbed the "Houdini of the hardwood" by one Philadelphia sports writer because "McCann does everything with the ball but make it disappear." Ace has had the scribes scurrying to dictionaries for the past three years to dig up new superlatives to describe his sparkling brand of play. A little fighter, he was named to the All-City and All-State teams in both his freshman and sophomore years.

He was a member of the sensational John Bartram High team that compiled the phenomenal record of 39 straight victories, and made the Philadelphia All-Public team in both 1943 and 1944. Was also named the most valuable player in the league for both years. Ace has always been among the team leaders in scoring.

FRANCIS J. McMENAMIN

No. 11—Guard

Sophomore

5'11"



This is Franny's first year with the varsity, after phenomenal success with the Frosh last year. Exceptional for outside shooting, he is just as amazing with hooks and deep under the boards "english" shots.

He won the Philadelphia Catholic League scoring championship while a junior at Roman Catholic, but lost it in his senior year when an operation kept him out of the line-up.

Franny broke the LaSalle College Field House record against Fort Dix on January 20, 1949 when he poured 41 points through the nets while playing only a part of the game. He led the freshman team in scoring, with 312 points in 16 games.

Franny is the brother of Johnny McMenamin, St. Joseph's College freshman coach.

JAMES J. PHELAN

No. 10—Forward

Junior

6'



Jimmy wasn't a starter until late in the season, but his driving play immediately captured the imagination of Philadelphia sports writers with the result that he accomplished the impossible by being named to the All-City team!

One of the shortest members of the team, he prepped at LaSalle High, and was named to the All-Catholic and Eastern State Catholic teams in 1946 and 1947. Despite limited play, Jimmy has averaged 8 points per game.

CHARLES S. TOMKINS

No. 16—Forward

Senior

6'1"



Charley is one of the five seniors who has been on the team for the past three years and has compiled the enviable record of 61 wins and only 17 losses.

Used only to spell one of the regulars, his duty has usually been to sub for the man left open when the opposition double-teams Larry Foust. Then his outside accuracy is especially effective.

He was a seven letter man at West Philadelphia Public High, and was named to the All-Public team in 1942 and again in '43.

LAST SEASON'S INDIVIDUAL SCORING

NO.	NAME	POS.	GAMES	GOALS	FOULS	POINTS
* 9	Colman, Walt	G	18	9	13	31
*17	Comerford, Frank	G	28	98	51	247
† 5	Donnelly, Chas.	F	16	61	28	150
* 3	Fanning, Matt	G	22	16	5	37
*14	Foust, Larry	C	28	177	99	453
*19	Gallagher, Wm.	F	28	59	37	155
*15	Gillespie, John	C	26	26	15	67
† 6	Grauer, John	C	15	58	39	155
*12	Haggerty, Jack	F	12	6	2	14
† 4	Jones, Newt	F	16	56	23	135
* 8	McCann, Bob	G	28	65	45	175
*11	McMenamin, Fran	G	16	137	38	312
*10	Phelan, Jimmy	F	23	51	43	145
*16	Tomkins, Chas.	F	8	6	1	13

† Freshman Team scoring

* Returning Letterman

EDITORS:

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John J. Kelly, Director

